been restored from 1st December 2005 and the supply situation is getting normalized.

With a view to strengthening the kerosene distribution system so that PDS kerosene is made available to the consumers at the right price and diversion is checked, the Government have also launched the "Jan Kerosene Pariyojana" as a pilot project in 420 blocks in the country effective 2nd October, 2005. The project involves strengthening the system of transporting kerosene from OMC depots to PDS fair price shops, the distribution infrastructure at the block and sub-block levels, and the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Gram Sabhas in monitoring the distribution of PDS kerosene.

Allotment of petrol pumps in Himachal Pradesh

2241. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pumps were allotted by Public Sector Undertakings of oil sector during the period from March, 2004 to 31st December, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether oil PSU's allotted petrol pumps to individuals in State of Himachal Pradesh, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period March, 2004 to November, 2005, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), have allotted, 7799 retail outlet (RO) dealerships (petrol pumps) in different States/Union Territories in the country, including 151 ROs in the State of Himachal Pradesh. These OMCs plan to allot another 596 ROs in the country, including 4 ROs in the State of Himachal Pradesh, in the month of December, 2005. OMC-wise break-up of these allotments is given below. The State-wise details of these allotments are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned:

OMC	No. of ROs allotted during March, 2004 to November, 2005		No. of ROs proposed to be allotted during December, 2005.	
	In the country as a whole	In the State of Him achat Pradesh	In the country as a whole	In the State of Himachal Pradesh
IOC	3,601	74	159	0 4
HPC	2,021	22	357	0 0
BPC	1,542	34	80	
IBP	635	21	0	
Total	7,799	151	596	4

LNG Terminals

2242. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LNG terminals which are operating in the country;

(b) how many are in offing; and

(c) what is the status of Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) terminal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) At present, there are two LNG terminals in the country. M/s Petronet LNG Limited (PLL), a joint venture company promoted by IOC, BPCL, GAIL & ONGC have commissioned a 5 MMTPA(million metric tonne per annum) LNG terminal at Dahej, Gujarat in April, 2004. M/s. Shell have commissioned a 2.5 MMTPA LNG terminal at Hazira, Gujarat in April, 2005.

(b) Ratnagiri LNG terminal in Maharashtra is Mely to be commissioned in 2006. PLL have also initiated action for setting up an LNG terminal at Kochi, Kerala, which is likely to be commissioned in the last quarter of the year 2009. IOC and ONGC are planning LNG terminals at Ennore, Tamil Nadu and Mangalore, Karnataka respectively.

(c) Ratnagiri LNG terminal is about 75% complete. The terminal is tentatively scheduled for commissioning in 2006.

Decline in exploration of oil by ONGC

†2243. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.